

REMARKS

In the instant Restriction Requirement, the Examiner alleges that the claims are directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention: Invention A – Claims 1-9, 18 and 19-29; Invention B – Claims 10-17; and Invention C – Claim 30.

As discussed below, the instant Restriction Requirement is improper because there will be no serious search burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required.

Claims 1-30 are directed to a mission module or a vessel operable to interact with a mission module. Thus, these claims are generic to Inventions A, B and C.

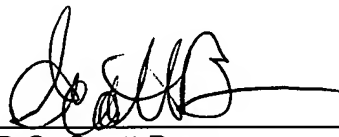
For a Restriction Requirement to be proper, the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed, **and** there must be a serious burden on the Examiner if restriction is not required. MPEP § 803. In this case, a search by the Examiner directed to vessels operable to interact with mission modules will likely yield art pertaining to mission modules that correspondingly interact with vessels. As such, a single field of search will cover all pending claims. Because all of the claims can be covered in a single search, there is no serious burden on the Examiner. Therefore, the Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Restriction Requirement.

Although the Applicant believes the Restriction Requirement is improper, to fully respond to the Restriction Requirement, the Applicant elects for prosecution Invention A directed to claims 1-9, 18 and 19-29 and further elects Species III drawn to watercraft, of which claims 1-8, 18-25 and 28 are readable thereon.

In the event fees are due as a result of this response, you are hereby authorized to charge such payment to Deposit Account No. 07-1897.

If the Examiner believes that a phone interview would be helpful, he is respectfully requested to contact the Applicants' attorney, Scott Born, at (425) 455-5575.

Respectfully submitted,
GRAYBEAL JACKSON HALEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P.G. Scott Born', written over a horizontal line.

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